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Medium-class Explorers (MIDEX) AO Pre-Proposal Conference Space Shuttle Launch Opportunities

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SHUTTLE USE POLICY

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•42 U.S.C. 2465a states that the Space Shuttle shall be used for purposes that

require the presence of man, (human interaction) require the unique capabilities of the Space Shuttle or when other compelling circumstances exist.

•Primary payloads must meet the above use policy.

Does not preclude the use of available cargo space, on a mission otherwise consistent with the policy, for secondary payloads that do not require **human interaction**



Shuttle Launch Opportunities

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- Funded Shuttle flights in FY-07 and -08
 - Current funded flight rate = 6/yr through FY-06
 - Anticipate that this funded rate will continue
 - 5 flights per year to the Space Station
 - One flight per year for other payloads
- Spacecraft project responsible for funding costs of upper stages or development of any new unique carrier that may be required.
- Spacecraft project responsible for any mission unique costs (e.g. special cabling necessary for electrical interfaces, unique flight design for non-standard inclination launches) must be included separately.

Shuttle Performance

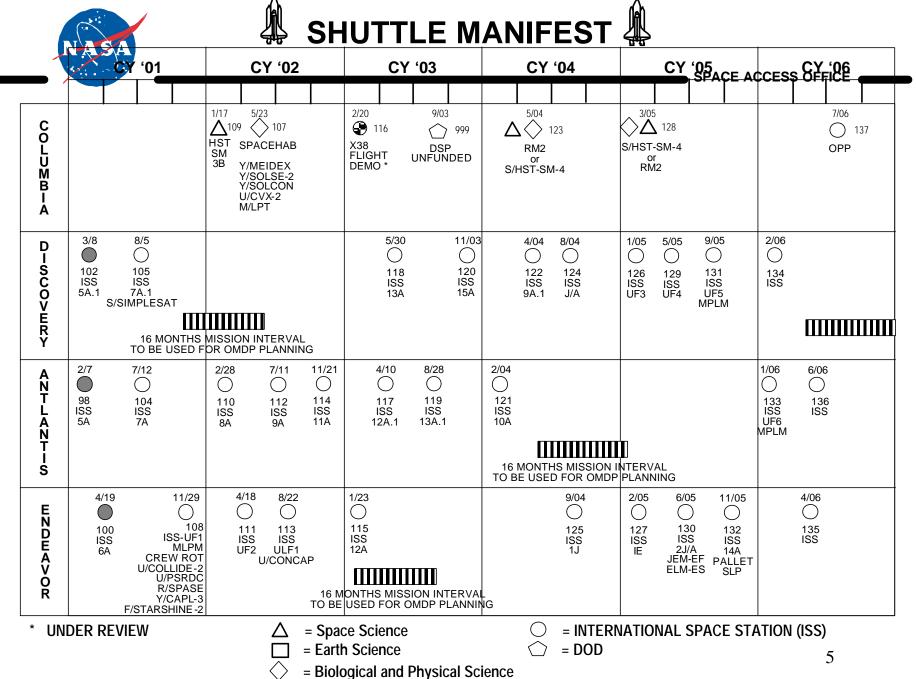
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Payload Size

The capacity of the Space Shuttle is 38,000 pounds or greater depending on inclination and altitude. Secondary payloads generally do not exceed 8,000 pounds. Similarly, the shuttle payload bay volume (15' dia. x 60' long) is shared among the entire payload complement.

Orbits

The Shuttle can carry payloads into orbits with an inclination ranging from 28.5 degrees to 57 degrees. Altitudes at which spacecraft and/or carriers can be deployed depend on a variety of factors but can vary from 110 nmi to over 300 nmi. Spacecraft and/or free flyers can carry orbit adjust systems to modify orbit parameters.





Space Shuttle

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